The Perjury and Folly of the Late REBELLION *Diſplay'd:*

IN A

SERMON

Preach'd at

EXON,

June *the* 7th. 1716.

Being the DAY appointed for a

PUBLICK THANKSGIVNIG,

For the Succeſs of His MAJETIES Forces againſt the **Rebels**, at *Preſton*, *Dumblain*, and *Perth.*

By JOHN WITHERS.

Mal. iii. 5. *And I will come near to you to Judgment, and I will be a ſwift Witneſs againſt the Sorcerers,* —— *and againſt falſe Swearers,* &c.

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EZEKIEL XVII. 15.

But he rebelled againſt him, in ſending his Ambaſſadors into Egypt, that they might give him Horſes, and much People: ſhall he proſper? ſhall he eſcape that doth ſuch things? or ſhall he break the Covenant, and be delivered?

WE are call'd together this Morning by the Providence of GOD, and the Commands of his Vicegerent. The Deſign of our preſent Meeting is to pay our Acknowledgments to the Supreme DISPOSER of all Events; and with an humble Gratitude to thank Him for his ſeaſonable Interpoſition on the Be-

half of an unworthy Nation. If we review the Days and Weeks that are paſt, and compare our preſent Circumſtances with what they were a few Months ſince, what an happy Alteration may we behold? Thoſe Clouds which then threatned us with a bloody Tempeſt, are now diſpers'd. Tho' the Heathen have rag'd, yet theſe People *have imagined but vain Things:* For *He that ſits in Heaven hath laughed them to ſcorn; the Almighty has had them in Deriſion.* The Enemies of our Tranquillity have ſeen their Projects blaſted; their Plots defeated, and an Unnatural Rebellion ſuppreſs'd. That GOD, whoſe Voice both Winds and Seas obey, hath *calm'd the Tumults* of a giddy *People;* and ſet Bounds to thoſe *raging Waves* which have been *foaming forth their own Shame.* The Words of my Text may, with a little Variation, be apply'd to thoſe rebellious Chiefs, who attempted to dethrone a PRINCE, to whom they had often ſworn Allegiance. They have rebelled againſt Him, in ſending their Emiſſaries into *France,* and, *Shall they proſper? Shall they eſcape, who have done ſuch Things? Shall they break the Covenant, and be delivered?*

THE Occaſion of theſe Words was as follows; The Princes and People of *Judah* had been guilty of many horrible Impieties, and perſiſted in their vile, ungrateful Carriage, notwithſtanding all the Methods made uſe of to reclaim them. This provok'd Almighty GOD to withdraw his Protection from them, and to leave them naked and expos'd to the Inſults and Invaſions of their barbarous and cruel Enemies, being, as it were, ground between theſe two Mill-ſtones, *Babylon* on one Side, and *Egypt* on the other. After the unhappy Fall of good

Joſias,

Joſias, the People of the Land made *Jehoahaz* his Son King in his Stead; but *Pharaoh-nechoh*, like an imperious Conqueror, either diſliking their Choice, or to ſhew his Authority, carry'd him a Priſoner into *Egypt*, where he died, leaving his elder Brother *Eliakim* King of *Judah*, whoſe Name he chang'd to *Jehoiakim*. * This latter, being a vicious and cruel Prince, GOD gave him up into the Hands of *Nebuchadnezzar*, King of *Babylon*, who came up againſt *Jeruſalem* with a mighty Hoſt; *Jehoiakim* being unable to withſtand ſo great a Force, came forth, made his Submiſſion to him, and *ſo became his Servant* †. That is, he became Tributary to, and Dependant on him. To this laſt mentioned Prince, after a ſhort, a troubleſome and wicked Reign ſucceeded his Son *Jehoiachin*, called otherwiſe *Jeconiah*, or *Coniah*, who was ſo far from taking proper Methods to appeaſe the divine Wrath, that he inflam'd it to a higher Degree by his repeated Provocations. Inſomuch, that *Nebuchadnezzar* came up a ſecond Time againſt *Jeruſalem*, with greater Rage and Fury than in his former Expedition. And now he robs the Temple of its moſt valuable Treaſures, and carries with him the King, the Princes and Nobles of *Judah*, with the moſt skilful Artificers of the Land into a miſerable Captivity. However, he leaves the meaneſt of the People, to manure and cultivate the Ground; and over them he appointed *Zedekiah* to be their King, or more immediate Governor. And that he might not revolt from him as his Brother and Nephew had done before him, he exacted an Oath of Fealty and Allegi-

* 2 Kings xxiii. 34, 35. † 2 Kings xxiv. 1.

ance

ance from him, *and made him ſwear by God* *. Had *Zedekiah* been faithful to his Ingagements, he might have liv'd in Safety, tho' not in a Splendour equal to that of his Predeceſſors. The King of *Babylon* indeed took away with him the *King's Seed*, and *the Mighty of the Land, that the Kingdom might be baſe, that it might not lift it ſelf up, but that by keeping of his Covenant it might ſtand* †. His Deſign plainly was, ſo to weaken and enfeeble it, that it might not rebel againſt him any more; But ſtill, had the Oath of God been kept with ſuch Sincerity and Exactneſs as it ought, the People might have liv'd in their own Country, and under their own Laws: The Conſtitution had not been diſſolv'd, nor the Government quite unhing'd; it might have retain'd the Form of a Kingdom, tho' in a State of Dependance upon the great *Aſſyrian* Monarch. But *Zedekiah rebelled againſt him; in ſending his Ambaſſadors into* Egypt, *&c.*

In which Words you may obſerve,

1. The Conduct of *Zedekiah* and his Aſſociates, *He rebelled againſt him.* This is that infamous, diſgraceful Character which the Holy Scripture gives to his Revolt *. And in Order to ſupport himſelf againſt the Reſentment of the *Chaldeans*, he had recourſe to *Egypt* for Aſſiſtance; tho' in this, he did but lean upon a broken Reed, which would pierce, but not ſupport him. You may obſerve in the ſecond Place.

* 2 Chron. xxxvi. 13. † Ezek. xvii. 13, 14.

2. The

2. THE Succeſs attending ſuch a Conduct: *Shall he Proſper? Shall he Eſcape?* No; he ſhall not. I will defeat his Hopes, confound his Expectations, and his Hands ſhall not be able to perform his Enterprizes. The next Thing remarkable in theſe Words is,

3. THE Reaſon of his bad Succeſs. *He hath broken the Covenant; and ſhall he be delivered?* Shall that Tongue rejoyce and triumph which hath ſworn falſely by my Name? Shall theſe Hands proſper and be victorious, which have been lifted up to Me, and now proſecute Deſigns ſo contrary to their ſolemn Vows? *As I live, (ſaith the Lord God) ſurely my Oath which he hath deſpiſed, and my Covenant which he hath broken, even it will I recompence upon his own Head.* ver. 19: He may be falſe to *his* Oath; but I will be true to *mine.* In accommodating my Diſcourſe to the preſent Occaſion of our Meeting, I ſhall obſerve this Method:

I. I SHALL *ſhew you, wherein the Rebellion lately raiſed in Great* Britain *reſembles that of* Zedekiah *and the* Jews.

II. I WILL *demonſtrate, That the Rebellion lately raiſed in this Iſland is far more criminal, and more inexcuſable than that, which is ſo ſeverely cenſured by the Prophet in my Text.*

III. I WILL *ſhew you the Danger we were in, upon Account of the late Conſpiracy and Inſurrection.*

IV. I SHALL *endeavour to repreſent unto you the ſignal Interpoſition of divine Providence, in preſerving us from ſo great a Danger.* And,

V. CONCLUDE *with ſome practical Inferences.*

I. I AM *Firſt* to ſhew you, wherein the Jewiſh and Britiſh Rebellion reſembled one another: And that will appear in theſe following Inſtances.

1. THEY were both carry'd on in Contradiction to the moſt ſolemn Oaths. 'Twas *Zedekiah's* Perjury that incens'd a Jealous GOD to ſuch a high Degree. This added a peculiar Malignity to his Revolt. The Spirit of GOD puts a particular Remark on this. : *He rebelled againſt* Nebuchadnezzar, *who made him ſwear by God* *. Juſt thus did our Modern Rebels : I ſpeak not of the Papiſts, who never own'd the Government, but of ſuch Proteſtants as were their Generals, and the principal Contrivers of the Miſchief. As for theſe Men, They lift up their treacherous Hands againſt that very Crown they had ſworn to ſupport upon King GEORGE's Head. They ſet up the Standard of that *Pretender*, whom they had frequently, and ſolemnly abjured. They proclaim'd the Title of their Sham Monarch with thoſe very Tongues, with which they had ſo often ſworn, That he had no Right, or Title whatſoever to the Imperial Crown of theſe Realms: And with which they had imprecated the Vengeance of GOD upon their own

* 2 Chron. xxxvi. 13.

Heads,

Heads, if they ſpoke not their real Sentiments. And ſhall ſuch as theſe be delivered? No! my Friends, GOD hath declar'd Himſelf to be a Jealous GOD, He hath not held them guiltleſs, who took his Name in vain: They are cruſh'd with the Weight of their own Perjuries. No longer will Almighty GOD be banter'd with broken Vows and falſe Oaths. I ſtand amaz'd to think how they could hope for the leaſt Degree of Succeſs, when they had ſo impudently affronted GOD as well as his Vicegerent.

2. THE Jewiſh and Britiſh Rebels reſemble one another in their Expectations of foreign Aid. Thus *Zedekiah ſent his Ambaſſadors into* Egypt *for Horſes and much People:* He endeavoured to ſtrengthen himſelf by an Alliance with the old hereditary Enemies of his Country. Tho' in doing ſo, He did but *feed upon the Wind*, and *follow after the Eaſt-wind*; to uſe the Words of the Prophet upon a like Occaſion *. They only fed themſelves with a few airy Hopes, which grip'd their Bowel's, diſturb'd and vex'd their Minds, but afforded no ſolid and ſubſtantial Relief unto 'em. Juſt ſo, our modern Rebels buoy'd themſelves up with an Expectation of Relief from a neighbouring Kingdom. From thence they actually receiv'd Ships loaden with warlike Stores and Ammunition. From thence Generals, and military Officers were waſted over to inſtruct and command their undiſciplin'd Rabble. And 'tis very probable, they would have receiv'd more numerous and powerful Suc-

* Hoſ. xii. 1.

cours from the ſame Quarter, had not the Providence of God very ſeaſonably interpos'd.

3. The Jewiſh and Britiſh Rebels had the ſame Plea to make of Fighting in Defence of hereditary Right; and againſt a foreign Prince. As for *Zedekiah*, he was the Son of King *Joſiah* *. and Uncle to *Coniah*, or *Jehoiachin*: He was deſcended in a direct Line from *David* King of *Iſrael*, on whoſe Poſterity God had entail'd the Kingdom by a particular Promiſe: He had the Royal Blood of *Judah* in his Veins. There were no Diſputes about the Legitimacy of his Birth: That was unqueſtionable. Nay, his elder Brother's Son, and the Reſt of the Blood royal, being Priſoners in *Babylon*, which is, in effect, the ſame Thing as if they had been actually dead: *Zedekiah* ſeems to be the firſt, in what we now call the Right Line of Succeſſion, who was capable of weilding the Jewiſh Scepter; whilſt *Nebuchadnezzar* was a Stranger to their Conſtitution. By ſuch Maxims as theſe do our modern Rebels pretend to Juſtify their moſt notorious Perjuries. With Fig-leaves of the ſame Kind do they endeavour to conceal the Nakedneſs of their Cauſe, and the Shamefulneſs of their Actions. They tell us that the Perſon, whoſe Standard they have erected, has the Royal blood of the *Stewarts* in his Veins: That he has an indefeaſable, hereditary Right to the Succeſſion of theſe Kingdoms, which no Law, which no Religion can alter or diminiſh. But as for King George, He is a Foreigner, a Stranger to our Laws and Nation; And, indeed, what not? I would to God, that our Malecontents would give this Chapter, out of which my Text is taken, a ſerious Peruſal.

They

They will there find, that Proximity of Blood, and what they call hereditary Right, are no ſufficient Plea againſt the Obligation of a deliberate Oath and ſolemn Vow. *Zedekiah* was, without Diſpute, in what we call the *Right Line*: But becauſe he and his People had taken an Oath of Allegiance to the King of *Babylon*, and then revolted from him; that GOD, to whom they had appeal'd, and by whom they had ſworn, takes a moſt terrible Vengeance on them for their Perfidiouſneſs. *I will bring him to* Babylon, *and plead with him there, for his Treſpaſs that he hath treſpaſſed againſt Me: And all his Fugitives ſhall fall by the Sword.* &c. *ver.* 20, 21. In one Word, If a pretended hereditary Right would not excuſe thoſe *Jews* who had ſworn Fealty to *Nebuchadnezzar*, much leſs will it excuſe thoſe *Britains* who have ſworn Allegiance to His Preſent MAJESTY. This leads me to

II. THE *ſecond* general Head that I propos'd to ſpeak to, which was to demonſtrate, That the late Britiſh Rebellion is more criminal, and inexcuſable than that of the *Jews*, condemned by the Prophet in my Text. For,

1. OUR late Rebels are therefore more inexcuſable, becauſe His Britiſh MAJESTY hath a better Title to their Allegiance, than the King of *Babylon* had to that of the *Jews*. As for *Nebuchadnezzar*, his Right was founded upon Violence and Conqueſt; and his Title lay in the Hilt of his Sword. The Jewiſh Diadem was never ſettled on his Head by the free Conſent of their *Sanhedrim*, nor by the Laws and Conſti-

tution of their Country. He was never pray'd for in their Synagogues, as the preſumptive Heir; nor were the Prieſts and Magiſtrates all ſworn to maintain the Succeſſion in his Family, for a dozen or fourteen Years before it took Place. True it is, GOD made Uſe of him as *the Rod of his Anger*, and *the Staff of his Indignation*, and *ſent him againſt an hypocritical Nation, with a Charge to take the Spoil* *. But this is only meant of a providential Licence and Permiſſion. GOD ſuffered him to enlarge his Territories, and indulge his proud, ambitious Inclinations. As for him, his Deſign was not to avenge the Quarrel of a Righteous GOD, but to *deſtroy and cut off Nations not a Few* †. But this Permiſſion gave him no Right, no more than *Pilate* had a Right to condemn our SAVIOUR, when GOD by his Providence delivered Him into his Hands. But as for King GEORGE, He hath as good a Title to the Crown He wears, as any Prince in *Europe*. It hath been ſettled on Him by the concurring Votes of Lords and Commons, under the auſpicious Influences of King *William* and Queen *Anne*. The Proteſtant Succeſſion in the illuſtrious Houſe of *Hanover*, is a Point in which all Parties, all Factions amongſt us, have at leaſt pretended to center and unite. We have had ſeveral Parliaments of different Parties, and of contrary Views and Intereſts; yet this is what they have all declared for. His Title, even before it took Place, was recogniz'd by all the Proteſtants in the Kingdom, and that too in their moſt ſolemn Prayers to Almighty GOD, when they could

* Iſa. x. 6. † Iſa. x. 7.

not

not prevaricate without the vileſt Hypocriſy, and offering the moſt daring Affront to that awful BEING, whom they pretended to adore. I know ſome Perſons have made a Noiſe with a few canting Terms, ſuch as, *An indefeaſible, hereditary Right*, and the like. But if this Doctrine be true, no Prince can have a valid Title, unleſs he derives his Pedigree from the eldeſt Son of *Noah*, and that too from the top Branch of the Family. This Notion is founded neither on the Scriptures, nor on the Laws and Cuſtoms of our Country. If we conſult the Genealogy of the Jewiſh Kings, we ſhall find, That *Saul* was ſucceeded by *David*, of another Tribe and Family; and *David* by *Solomon*, who was one of his younger Sons; and *Joſiah* by *Jehoahaz*, who was made King by the People of the Land, tho' *Jehoiakim* was his elder Brother, 2 *Chron.* xxxvi. 1, 2—5. Other Inſtances of the ſame Nature might be eaſily produced. If we peruſe the *New Teſtament*, we ſhall find the Apoſtles exhorting the Chriſtians to whom they wrote, to be obedient to Magiſtrates, to be ſubject to the Higher Powers, and that not only for *Wrath, but for Conſcience Sake.* But then, the *Roman* Emperors, who govern'd the World at that Time, made no Pretence to an hereditary Right: They ow'd their Titles, either to the Votes of the Senate, or the Choice of thoſe victorious Legions whom they commanded. As for the Laws of our own Country, There was an Act of Parliament made more than One hundred and forty Years ago, declaring it High-Treaſon for any Perſon to affirm and maintain, That the Queen and Parliament had not Power to

bind

bind and limit the Succeſſion to the Crown *: 'Tis now near ſeven hundred Years ſince *William*, ſirnamed the *Conqueror*, got Poſſeſſion of this Kingdom. Since that Time, we have had Thirty Sovereign Kings and Queens: But in all that Catalogue, there are not Four who have immediately ſucceeded one another, in what is now call'd the Right Line, without a very remarkable Interruption †. By which it appears, That the ſettling of the Crown upon that Head which now wears and adorns it, is no Way inconſiſtent either with the Laws of GOD, or the Cuſtoms of *England*.

OUR

* Vide Stat. 13. *Eliz.* cap. 1.

† To (1) *William* I, Sirnam'd the *Conqueror*, ſucceeded his two Sons, (2) *W. Rufus*, and (3) K. *Henry* I. But their eldeſt Brother *Robert* being living, they were both out of the Right Line; as was (4) K. *Stephen*, the *Conqueror*'s Grandſon by a Daughter, whilſt one of his Sons had Iſſue living. Next came (5) K. *Henry* II; and (6) K. *Rich.* I. But then the Line was again broken by (7) K. *John*, who was admitted King by the great Council of the Realm, tho' *Arthur* his elder Brother's Son was living. To him ſucceeded (8) K. *Henry* III; (9) *Edward* I, and then (10) *Edward* II, whoſe Reign met with a fatal Interruption; he being firſt depos'd by the Parliament, and then murder'd by the Contrivance of the Biſhop of *Hereford*. He was ſucceeded by (11) *Edward* III; and (12) *Richard* II, who was alſo depos'd for his ill Adminiſtration; and the Houſe of *Lancaſter* got Poſſeſſion of the Crown, of which Family were the three following Princes. (13) *Henry* IV, (14) *Henry* V, and (15) *Henry* VI: But all out of what we now call the Right Line. This laſt, after many bloody Struggles, was at length laid aſide, and had for his Succeſſor, (16) *Edward* IV, of the Houſe of *York*. He was ſucceeded by his Son (17) K. *Edward* V, who being but a Youth, was murder'd in the *Tower* by his cruel Guardian and Uncle

2. OUR late Rebels are more inexcuſable than the *Jews* in my Text; becauſe they rebell'd againſt a King, who never abus'd his Power, nor gave them the leaſt Provocation. As for *Nebuchadnezzar*, he had been guilty of many Acts of Violence and Injuſtice. His Armies had carried Terror and Devaſtation from one Corner of the Land unto the other. He bound their King in Chains, and their Nobles in Fetters of Iron.

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cle, (18) *Richard* III, who loſt his Crown and Life together in the Battle of *Boſworth*. His Conqueror and Succeſſor, was (19) K. *Henry* VII, of the Houſe of *Lancaſter*, who could not claim the Crown by Proximity of Blood. Next came (20) K. *Henry* VIII, who united the two Families, being Heir to that of *York* by his Mother, and to that of *Lancaſter* by his Father. He was ſuceeded by his Son (21) K. *Edward* VI, and his two Daughters (22) *Mary* and (23) Q. *Elizabeth*. But both theſe Ladies were declared illegitimate, by their own Father, the Parliament and Convocation. And their Mothers being both living when the younger of them was born, 'tis abſolutely impoſſible they could both be lawfully begotten, and ſo in the right Line. But they had each of them a Parliamentary Title, and that was ſufficient. To theſe ſucceeded in the right Line, (24) K. *James* I, and (25) K. *Charles* I, whoſe Reign was miſerably interrupted, and his Regal Power uſurp'd, firſt by the Rump Parliament, and then by *Oliver Cromwell*. He was at length ſucceeded by (26) K. *Charles* II, and (27) K. *James* II. who was driven out of his Kingdom by the united Endeavours of *Whig* and *Tory*. His Succeſſor by a Parliamentary Title, was (28) K. *William* III: Then came (29) Q. *Anne*, who had no other Title, if what our Malecontents do now ſuggeſt be true, *viz.* that the *Pretender* is K. *James*'s Son. And laſt of all (30) K. GEORGE, who claims under a Parliamentary Settlement. And 'tis evident by this Catalogue, that very many of his Predeceſſors had no other, and not one of them a better.

Iron. He made their Princes lick the Duſt, and ſuch as had been brought up delicately were forc'd to embrace a Dung-hill. He made his own Will the Meaſure of his Actions, and knew no Rule but what his Luſt or Fancy preſcrib'd unto him. But Nothing of this Nature can be objected to His preſent MAJESTY. Not one of all thoſe inſolent Rebels, who have taken Arms againſt Him, can pretend to have been injur'd by Him in his Perſon or Eſtate. No Man has been depriv'd of his Life or Fortune without a fair and legal Tryal. The Prerogative hath not been ſtretch'd beyond its due Bounds, nor a diſpenſing Power pretended to. King GEORGE hath made the known Law of the Land the Compaſs, by which he ſteers his Courſe: And yet we have an ungrateful Crew amongſt us, who have endeavoured to pull him from the Helm, tho' they foreſee and know, that the Ship, in which they are themſelves embarqu'd, will neceſſarily run againſt the Rocks. Our modern Traytors have laid their Snares and Gins for theſe Feet which never made an illegal Step; which never deviated from that Rule, which our Conſtitution obliges the chief Magiſtrate to walk by. They have attempted to wreſt that Sword out of His MAJESTY's Hands, which was never yet unſheath'd for the Execution of an unjuſt or cruel Sentence: And to diveſt Him of that Purple which has been never ſtain'd with the Blood of Innocents; nor with the Tears of injur'd *Orphans*, and oppreſſed Widows. They have attempted to ſhake the Foundations of that Throne, which has hitherto been *eſtabliſhed by Righteouſneſs* and *upholden by Mercy*. Our Malecontents have been full of Murmurs and Complaints,

Complaints, not when in Danger of being cruſhed by his whole Loins, but before they had felt the Weight of his little Finger. His MAJESTY may appeal to his People in the Words of *Samuel Here I am this Day, witneſs againſt me before the Lord, whoſe Ox have I taken? Or whoſe Aſs have I taken? Whom have I defrauded? And whom have I oppreſſed* *? Whence then ariſes that Spirit of Sedition which hurries and diſturbs our Peace? It ariſes doubtleſs from thoſe mutinous Fiends, who firſt excited a Rebellion againſt GOD, and now againſt his Vicegerent. As for our modern Traytors, they have nothing to hide the Nakedneſs of their Cauſe; not the leaſt Shadow of a Reaſon to excuſe or palliate their Perjury and Treaſon.

3. OUR late Rebels are more inexcuſable than the *Jews*, becauſe they took up Arms againſt a Prince who profeſſes the ſame Religion with themſelves. As for the King of *Babylon*, he was an Idolater, a Pagan, an Adorer of fictitious Deities. One, who robb'd the Altar of the great *Jehovah* to adorn the Temple of his own falſe Gods. And though the Profeſſors of the true Religion had their Liberty, it can't be ſuppos'd they ſhould have any great Encouragement under ſuch a Government. So that if the *Jews* blew the Trumpet in *Sion*, and lifted up a Standard in that holy Mountain, 'twas in Oppoſition to the Children of *Babylon*: But as for our Britiſh Rebels, they have joyn'd the Inhabitants of

* 1 Sam. xii. 3.

Babylon, to raze the Walls of their own *Sion*. They have conſpir'd againſt a PRINCE, who is a Defender of that Faith, which they profeſs; and who worſhips at thoſe Altars, which they themſelves ſurround. A PRINCE, who is a Frequenter of thoſe Temples, in whoſe Stones they take Pleaſure, and whoſe very Duſt they pretend to favour: One who is a Member, or rather, the Head of that Church, for which they pretend ſo great a Zeal, and make ſo loud a Noiſe. Nay, they have attempted to rob the eſtabliſh'd Church of His Protection, who has been conſtantly a nurſing Father to it: And to commit it to the Care of one, who is oblig'd by the Principles of his Religion to deſtroy it. And can any Thing in Nature be more abſurd, more inexcuſable than ſuch a Conduct? Again,

4. THE late Rebellion was carry'd on in a perfect Contradiction to the declared Principles of ſuch as were engaged in it. Their two Generals, both voted in the Senate-Houſe for the utter Illegality of Reſiſtance, upon any Pretence whatſoever. But in Defiance to thoſe darling Notions, they have now *rebell'd* for the Sake of *Non-Reſiſtance*; ſhewn their Zeal for *Monarchy*, by Affronting their lawful *Monarch*; and the *Paſſiveneſs* of their Principles, by an Activity in Violence and Miſchief. They who would not allow us to reſiſt *a Tyrant*, have taken up Arms againſt *a legal Governor*. And they who would not permit Men to defend their own Rights, have been very forward to invade the Properties of *other People*. If we examine the Reaſons aſign'd

aſſign'd by them and their Abettors, we ſhall find them reduc'd to theſe three Heads.

1. THAT they might reſtore the *Pretender* to what they call his *Birth-right*. Now if this Perſon has any ſuch *Right* it muſt commence immediately upon the Demiſe of the late King *James*. But then, How came our Malecontents to compliment the late Queen upon her *hereditary Right*, and her *Title* by *Deſcent*? This you know they did, in numberleſs Addreſſes. This was the *Shibboleth*, the diſtinguiſhing Phraſe of a certain Party amongſt us, who would have monopolized all Loyaly to themſelves. 'Tis known to every Body, that the Brother ought to inherit before the Siſter; And therefore, for theſe Men to talk of the *Pretender's Right*, is to affirm that the late Queen was an Uſurper, and that they themſelves were all her Reign, a Pack of Hppocrites and Traytors.

2. ANOTHER declared Cauſe of the late Inſurrection was, *The pretended Danger of the Church*. But certainly, this is the greateſt Infatuation that was ever known. Can any conſult their thinking Faculties, and yet imagine that the Eſtabliſh'd Church can be ſecure under the Influence of one who thinks himſelf oblig'd in Conſcience to deſtroy it? 'Tis very well known, that the *Roman Catholicks* look upon the Decrees of a General Council, as the Determinations of the Holy Ghoſt Himſelf. And as the twelfth of thoſe Councils they call General, was the moſt numerous Aſſembly the Church of *Rome* ever ſaw, conſiſting of above twelve hundred Biſhops and

dignified Clergy: So in that Synod, the Denial of their new fangled Doctrine of *Tranſubſtantiation*, was not only declared to be a damnable Hereſy; but all Secular Lords are order'd and required, to extirpate all Sorts of Hereticks out of their Dominions; and that under Pain of Excommunication, and the Loſs of all their Lands to ſuch as will invade them, and execute this barbarous Sentence †. And can the Eſtabliſh'd Church, think you, be ſafe in the Hands of a bigotted Prince, who looks upon himſelf as much bound by the Canons of ſuch a Council, as you do by a Text in one of St. *Paul*'s Epiſtles? As well may we ſuppoſe the Sheep ſhould be ſafe in the Cuſtody of Wolves. We have had two popiſh Princes in *England*, ſince the Reformation of Religion amongſt us; Q. *Mary*, and K. *James* II; and they both trampled ſuch Proteſtants under their Feet as had fix'd the Crown upon their Heads. When the Gentlemen of *Suffolk* waited on the firſt of theſe in her Diſtreſs, at a Time when her Rival, the Lady *Jane Grey*, had been proclaim'd by the Privy Council, and had the actual Poſſeſſion of the *Tower* of *London*, ſhe ſolemnly aſſur'd them, That ſhe would not alter the Religion which had been ſettled and confirmed in the Reign of her Brother, King *Edward* VI. But no ſooner was ſhe ſettled in the Throne, but ſhe diſclaim'd her Engagements to 'em, and anſwer'd their Petition with an Air of Haughtineſs, telling them, That *Members muſt*

† Vide Conc. Lateran. ſub. *Innocent* III. cap. iii.

obey

obey their Head, and not look to rule it. Not only ſo; but ſhe cauſed a Gentleman to ſtand in the Pillory, for humbly minding her of her Promiſe *. You cannot, ſome of you, but remember, How K. *James* requited ſuch Members of the Church of *England* as ſtood by him in Oppoſition firſt to the Bill of Excluſion, and afterwards to the Duke of *Monmouth*. And muſt not theſe People be worſe than mad, who, after two ſuch Experiments as theſe, are for trying a third?

3. ANOTHER aſſign'd Cauſe of popular Diſcontents, is, The KING's employing ſuch Miniſters of State as ſome People don't like. But how inconſiſtent are our Malecontents with themſelves in this Reſpect alſo? When her late Majeſty was prevail'd upon by Mobs without, and Whiſperers within, to diſcard her victorious General: One, whom GOD had raiſed up as an Inſtrument to keep the Crown upon her Head, and the Sword out of our Bowels: When this great Captain was laid aſide, and exchang'd for one, who had Nothing of his own, that I know, to recommend him to the World, but an immenſe Profuſeneſs, and the ſquandering away a vaſt Eſtate amongſt the Miniſters to his Vanity and Pleaſure. When this, and ſome other Alterations, not much leſs unaccountable, were made, Was it it not the Language of our preſent Mutineers? What! Has not the Queen

* *Heylin*'s Hiſt. of the Reformation, *Edit.* 2. Part 2. p. 15.

of *Great Britain* the ſame Liberty with a private Gentlewoman, of employing ſu chServants as ſhe thinks fit? But how are the Sentiments of theſe Men at preſent chang'd! Now the very Dregs and Refuſe of the People ſet up themſelves to chooſe Generals and Secretaries of State, for one of the wiſeſt PRINCES in *Europe*. Now, he that drives the Cart, or grinds behind the Mill, will pretend to tell us, who are fit to guard and ſurround the Throne. In one Word; Never was there a greater Contradiction, than between the preſent *Practice* of ſome People, and the *Principles* which they declared, for ſome three or four Years ago.

5. ANOTHER Circumſtance which renders our Britiſh Rebels more inexcuſable than the *Jews* in my Text, is, That the Oaths which they have violated, have been more frequently repeated by them. We no where read, that *Zedekiah* ſwore Fealty to the King of *Babylon* more than once: But as for the Commanders in the late Inſurrection, they abjur'd the *Pretender*, and ſwore to the Succeſſion in the Houſe of *Hanover*, at leaſt, eight or ten Times apiece. A threefold, nay, a ſevenfold Cord has not been ſtrong enough to hold theſe Heroes in Wickedneſs.

III. I come now in the *third* Place, to repreſent to you the Danger we were in, upon the Account of this Rebellion. And here,

1. LET us firſt conſider, The Incouragement theſe Rebels had without the Realm. No Doubt, but moſt of the popiſh Powers in *Europe* were Well-wiſhers to the *Pretender*'s Cauſe. And when we conſider, the prodigious Riches of the Eccleſiaſticks, the vaſt Revenues of their Monaſteries, Abbies, and other religious Houſes: When to this, we add the Zeal with which they were acted, and that they had no lawful Iſſue to inherit their Eſtates; we muſt conclude, That they were very capable of affording him conſiderable Aſſiſtance; and we have little Reaſon to doubt of their Inclinations. And was our Britiſh *Sion*, think you, in no Danger, when *Gebal*, *Ammon*, *Amalek* and *Mount Seir*, were Confederates againſt Her? When 'twas the united Clamour of them all, *Raze it, raze it even to the Foundations?*

2. LET us next conſider that Spirit of Madneſs, Folly, and Sedition, that was gone forth into the Nation. The Contagion diffus'd itſelf far and near; the Poyſon was got into her Bowels, and began to prey upon her very Vitals. Time would fail me to recount unto you the various Methods that were made uſe of, in Order to alienate Mens Affections from their Lawful Sovereign, and to envenom their Minds againſt him. To this End, the moſt falſe and ſcandalous Stories have been invented, virulent Libels have been diſpers'd, and ſeditious Tumults have been rais'd. In one Word, Nothing has been left undone, or unſaid, in Order to render his MAJESTY both ridiculous and odious to his own Subjects. To this End the moſt contradictory,

tory, the moſt inconſiſtent Characters have been given of Him: Sometimes he has been repreſented as an indigent and poor PRINCE, One, who before his coming amongſt us, had ſcarce Revenue enough to maintain the Port and Grandure of an Engliſh Gentleman. At other times he has been repreſented as a very formidable Potentate, as one who had ſo many Troops of his native Forces in a conſtant Pay and Readineſs, that our Britiſh Liberties were endanger'd by their Number, notwithſtanding that vaſt Gulph, that there is between us and them. Sometimes He has been deſcrib'd as a *Gallio*; who cares for no Religion: Sometimes as a zealous Bigot, who ſeems reſolv'd to ſubvert the eſtabliſh'd Church; and to erect —— no Body knows what upon the Ruins of it. Sometimes He is ſaid to be of a ſoft and eaſy Temper, apt to be deluded and impos'd upon by his crafty Courtiers: And ſometimes of ſuch an inflexible and rigid Diſpoſition, that no Arguments, no Reaſons can prevail with Him. And tho' thoſe Stories are both falſe in themſelves, and inconſiſtent with one another; yet, how greedily have they been ſwallow'd by an unthinking Rabble? And weak Men have believed what wicked Men have invented. 'Tis amazing to conſider what unaccountable Riots and Tumults have been committed in diverſe Parts of the Kingdom. 'Tis true, the Diſſenters have been the immediate Sufferers; But 'tis the Authority of King GEORGE that has been wounded thorough their Sides. Thoſe Hands which broke down *their* Meeting Houſes, would as willingly have pull'd *Him* out of his Throne:

And

And thoſe Feet which trampled upon the Duſt of *their* ruin'd Temples, would have been as ready to kick the Crown from off *his* Head. To convince you of the Truth of this, I need only deſire you to look back to the 28th of *May* in the former Year; A Day remarkable for giving Birth to his Preſent MAJESTY. Then 'twas that theſe mad Pranks were firſt play'd; and I am ſorry, I am forc'd to ſay, it was in *Oxford*. 'Twas there the Trumpet of Sedition was firſt ſounded; from thence the Contagion flew into the adjacent Counties: And continued for many Months, like the *Peſtilence which walketh in Darkneſs*; and *like Deſtruction that waſteth at Noon-day*. Now when the Sparks of Diſcontent were ſcattered through the Nation, ready upon all Occaſions to break forth into a Flame, have we not Reaſon to conclude ourſelves in a great deal of Danger?

3. LET us next conſider the Miſeries of a Civil War. I have not Time to enlarge upon ſuch a melancholy Subject: Think with yourſelves, Sirs, what it is to have your Goods plundered, and your Houſes rifled; your Perſons inſulted, and your Wives and Daughters abuſed. Think what it is to be diſturb'd with the Noiſe and Alarm of War, with the Prancings of Horſes, and the Thundring of Ordnance: The Groans of dying Men, and the Shrieks of raviſh'd Women. Think what it is to ſee Garments dy'd in Blood, to ſee the Fields ſtrew'd with Carcaſes, and the Hoſpitals crouded with wounded Men and Cripples:

ples: Think what it is ſee mangled Bodies, torn Limbs, ſhattered Bones, and broken Sculls: And then let me ask you, Whether you have not Reaſon to thank GOD for your Deliverance from the Calamities of a Civil War? This leads me to the

IV. FOURTH General Head propos'd, which was to repreſent unto you the ſignal Interpoſition of Divine Providence in Preſerving us from ſo great a Miſchief.

1. GOD's Providence was remarkable in the Death of a certain great Potentate beyond the Seas, juſt before the Breaking out of the Rebellion in theſe Kingdoms: Which we have Reaſon to believe was a deadly Wound to that Cauſe. I know, Decency commands me to tread ſoftly when on a Monarch's Grave: And there is ſome Reſpect due, even to the Aſhes of a crowned Head. I ſhall therefore only ſay, Had the *Grand Monarque* liv'd longer, and govern'd himſelf by the ſame Maxims, which he conſtantly purſu'd for fifty or ſixty Years before; No Treaties would have hinder'd him from embracing a fair Opportunity, when it preſented, of re-eſtabliſhing his Affairs, and fixing a Pupil of his own upon the Britiſh Throne.

2. DIVINE Providence was remarkable in a ſeaſonable Diſcovery of that dark Deſign which was carrying on, in Order to involve the Nation in Blood and Ruin. When his MAJESTY firſt acquainted his Parliament with that Conſpiracy,

ſpiracy, we were as thoſe that dream; 'Twas Matter of Surprize to all, of Banter and Ridicule to too many. How confidently was it ſuggeſted, by a diſcontented Party, that all the Noiſe about a Plot was Nothing but a Court Contrivance, and a Pretence to raiſe a ſtanding Army? But Experience has ſince told us, that the Intelligence was true, and the Combination was ſtrong. We know not the particular Way, and Means by which the Diſcovery was made, nor is it fit we ſhould. But ſure we are, 'twas the Effect, not of a giddy Chance or blind Fortune, but of an over-ruling Providence and Counſel. That GOD, whoſe Eyes can penetrate the obſcureſt Corners in human Souls, who ſaw the ſecret Springs and Principles thoſe wicked Men were moved by, was pleaſed to interpoſe, and bring their Works of Darkneſs unto Light. We had otherwiſe been Surprized by a General Inſurrection: The Storm had overtaken us, before any Proviſion had been made againſt it: The Sword had been ſheathed in our Bowels, before we could have put on our Armour, or been upon our Guard.

3. GOD's Providence was further conſpicuous in granting Succeſs and Victory to his Majeſty's Forces. 'Twas He that taught their *Hands to war*, and their *Fingers to fight*. 'Twas He that inſpir'd them with Courage and Reſolution, and ſtruck their Enemies with a panick Fear. 'Twas the Breath of the LORD that diſpell'd thoſe gloomy Clouds, which were hovering over our Heads, and threatned us with a bloody Tempeſt. With-

out his powerful and kind Aſſiſtance, human Strengt and Policy, warlike Stores and Ammunitions, would have prov'd too feeble a Foundation for us to build our Hopes of Safety on. If a handful of Valiant and Loyal Soldiers, made three Times their Number of ſturdy Rebels to flee before 'em at *Dumblain*, 'twas becauſe the LORD of Hoſts was on their Side. He gave *Salvation to our King, and ſcattered ſuch as roſe up againſt Him.* I ſhall conclude with theſe two practical Inferences, and ſo diſmiſs you.

1. *Inference.* LET us praiſe GOD for defeating both the ſecret Treachery, and open Violence of our Enemies: Let us give unto Him the Glory that is due unto his Name. 'Tis not any Worth or Excellence in us, that hath made ſo vaſt a Diſtinction betwixt us and the Nations round about us. No! theſe peculiar Favours which we enjoy, are all the Effects of rich, and undeſerved Bounty. The Caution which *Moſes* gave the *Iſraelites*, may, with a little Variation, be apply'd unto us: *Speak not in thy Heart, after the Lord hath caſt out the Heathen before thee, ſaying, For my Righteouſneſs hath the Lord brought me in to poſſeſs this good Land* *. Our Civil and Religious Privileges, are all owing to GOD's Mercies, not to our own Merits. If we have many valuable Talents ſtill truſted in our Hands, 'tis not becauſe we have improv'd them better than our Neighbours: 'Tis not becauſe our Sacrifices are more pure and holy, that our

* Deut. ix. 4.

Blood

Blood has not been mingled with them. 'Tis not becauſe we thrive and flouriſh better by our ſpiritual Food, that we do not ſeek it with the Peril of our Lives. If our Houſes have not been rifled and plundered, the Reaſon is not, becauſe the Worſhip of GOD has been more regularly, more conſtantly performed in them. If our Air be not filled with the Noiſe and Triumphs of inſulting Foes, 'tis not becauſe it has not been polluted with Oaths and Blaſphemies. If our Towns and Cities are not turn'd into Heaps of Rubbiſh, 'tis not becauſe they have been Mountains of Praiſe, and Habitations of Holineſs. We have therefore all imaginable Reaſon to conclude with the *Pſalmiſt: Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to thy Name do we give Glory* †.

2. *Inference*, LET us continue our Prayers to Almighty GOD, for the Security of that GOVERNMENT to which we have ſworn, and under which we enjoy ſo many Mercies. St. *Paul* Commands us to *pray for Kings, and for all that are in Authority under them* *. And the Truth of it is, Princes need the Aſſiſtance of their Subjects *Prayers* as well as of their *Tribute*. They want more than ordinary Abilities for the due Management of their Affairs. The moſt mean and vulgar Hand would be ready to graſp a Scepter, if it lay within its Reach; But where is the Man that has Dexterity enough to wield it as he ought? They are liable to

† Pſal. cxv. 1. * 1 Tim. ii. 1, 2.

very

very great Temptations: Being plac'd in a higher Station, they are more expoſs'd to Storms and Tempeſts. A Crown is a very glittering Thing, and apt to dazzle the Eyes of thoſe who wear it, ſo that they cannot ſee, either their own Imperfections, or the ſelfiſh baſe Deſigns of ſuch as may attend them: Amongſt whom, there are but few, commonly ſpeaking, ſo bravely Virtuous, as to dare tell them the Truth. Let us therefore pray for his moſt ſacred Majeſty King GEORGE: That GOD would guide him by his Wiſdom, and protect him by his Power; that *Length of Days may be in his right Hand, and in his left Hand Riches and Honour:* That his *Enemies may be cloath'd with Shame,* and *the Crown long flouriſh on his Head.* Let us pray for his Royal Highneſs the PRINCE, that He may inherit his Father's Virtues with his Kingdoms: For his illuſtrious Conſort the PRINCESS; that She may be as a *fruitful Vine by the Sides of his Houſe,* whoſe ſpreading Branches may be both a Support and Ornament unto it. Let us pray for His hopeful ISSUE, That theſe *Olive-Plants which are round about his Table,* May be, not only the lively Emblem, but the certain Pledges of a long Tranquillity and Peace: That the *Children of his Youth may be as Arrows in the Hand of a mighty Man;* That being ſo *happy as to have his Quiver full of them, He may not be aſhamed, but ſpeak with the Enemies in the Gate* *. And not only ſo, but drive

* Pſal. cxxvii. 4, 5.

them

them far from the Walls of our Britiſh *Sion*. Let us pray for our Nobility, Magiſtrates and Gentry, that their Virtues may be as conſpicuous as their Quality: For our Miniſters of all Denominations, that the Glory of GOD, and the Salvation of Souls may be the Mark at which they principally aim. And laſtly for all the People, that they may be Pious and Charitable, Dutiful and Loyal, that they may *Fear God* and *Honour the King, and not Meddle with thoſe who are given to Change.*

FINIS.

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